



**Statement by Pakistan at the Second Session of the Working Group of
International Health Regulations**
(20 February 2023)

Thank you, Chair

We align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of EMRO

We recognize the importance of international cooperation in promoting the goals of global public health. The salience of such cooperation was once again highlighted, especially in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We believe strengthening and effective implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR), at both national and international levels, are essential.

We welcome the recommendations that prioritize embedding equity in the global health infrastructure, improved disease surveillance mechanism, crafting a balance between responsibilities and obligations for states commensurate with their respective capabilities, strengthening of the financial mechanism and on technology transfer.

Going forward, we need to prioritize what is most needed is to address the current gaps as we are pressed with time and also have the INB process, for which deadline is the same as WGIHR. Therefore, coordination between the two processes is essential. Both processes should complement each other while avoiding duplication, as they provide an important opportunity to address some of the gaps exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the end, we wish to underscore that international assistance and cooperation, equity and solidarity should remain our core purpose and objective.

We reaffirm our commitment to supporting the work of the WGIHR, the bureau and the WHO in promoting global health security and preparedness. We stand

ready to collaborate with the WGIHR and other Member States in developing pathways towards effective implementation of IHR to ensure a safer and healthier world for all.

We look forward to working closely with other delegations for consideration of targeted amendments. In this regard, we recall the decision of last year's Executive Board underlining that potential amendments should be limited in scope and address specific and clearly identified issues, challenges, including equity, technological or other developments, or gaps that could not effectively be addressed otherwise.

I thank you.